



Technology Lessons

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Teachers

April 2013 – Issue 21

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Interactive Artwork Sites Silk & This Exquisite Forest

SILK – new.weavesilk.com

Have students create visual works of art online. Silk is an interactive site where students can drag their mouse around on the page to create beautiful weaving & whirling designs. Drawing lines on the screen will add color to the moving art, & by speeding up or slowing down their movements the effect will change. Students can choose between 6 different colors, & 3 different modes of symmetry. Students can share their creation with a simple link. Have students describe their unique artwork as a description & creative writing exercise. Also available as an app for the iPad.



THIS EXQUISITE FOREST – www.exquisiteforest.com

An online art project developed by Google, this site is a place for digital storytelling through pictures, not words. Students can work collaboratively to create a short animated story, with each animation building off the previous branches. Students can create their own seeds & invite others to grow a tree with them. Before students can create their own seeds, they do have to contribute to an already existing tree. If a student does not feel they can express their words with an animation, think about having the students pair up. Have one student become an author & write an outline of the story, while the other student draws the animation of the story.



Combining Technology & Community Service

Teacher Guest Post by Emily Lindgern, 3rd Grade

Last year the students in the 3rd Grade Expanded Learning Center recorded books on CD & DVD as a community service project. The Plattsmouth Early Childhood Center was given the books on CD & DVD to be used in their listening centers. This year the 3rd grade teachers have asked the Kindergarten teachers if they would like to be the recipients of the books on CD.

This is how the project looks:

1. Ask grade level teachers what books they would like on CD.
2. Check out the books & assign a student to each book.
3. After weeks of practicing reading with fluency & expression the students are ready to record.
4. Using an iPod, iPad, or iPhone: each student meets with his or her teacher in a quiet place to record his or her book on CD or DVD. A FlipVideo was used for recording the reader.
5. Upload sound file onto iTunes or video file onto iMovie.
6. Organize the sound files into playlists by book title & burns onto CD or DVD.
7. Put CD/DVD in a case & add to the stack to be donated.

This project required a lot of time, money, & planning.

Many factors must be considered before a teacher can implement this project into his or her classroom.

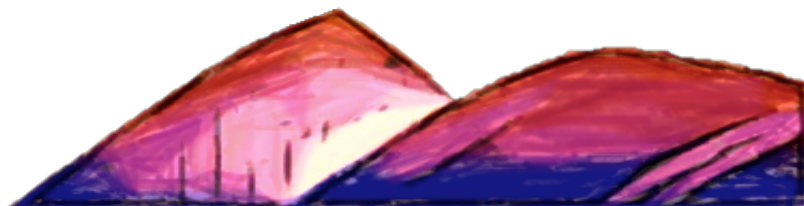
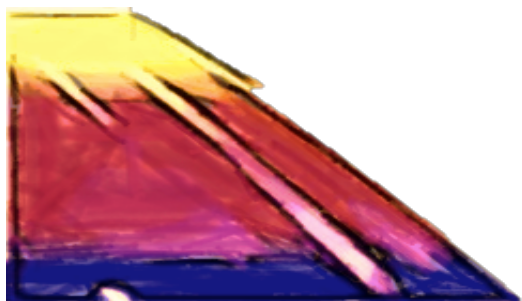
1. Part of your classroom budget may need to be used to purchase CDs/DVDs & the cases for the project.
2. Have an awareness of how to record on an iPod, FlipVideo, iPad, iPhone & import to iTunes/iMovie. I used the VOICE RECORDER app on my iPod to record each student's book as an audio file.
3. Be able to burn a CD from iTunes & a DVD from iMovie.
4. Be willing to spend a lot of your own time on this project.

This community service project took a lot of time & teacher power, but it was well worth it. Students were thrilled to hear their recordings & were overjoyed at the idea of donating to younger students. They did not even realize they were becoming more fluent readers in the process! This year we are hoping that our 3rd grade students share the excitement of last year's students while completing the project.



InfuseLearning – www.infuselearning.com

A free student response system that works with any iOS & Android device & laptops/computers. InfuseLearning allows you to push questions, prompts, & quizzes out to a student device in a private online classroom. Students can reply to multiple choice, true/false, & short answer formats. Students can also reply by creating drawings or diagrams. Multiple languages are also an option, along with audio narration. A great resource for our future 1-to-1 learning initiative or use it now by checking out your buildings' iPods.



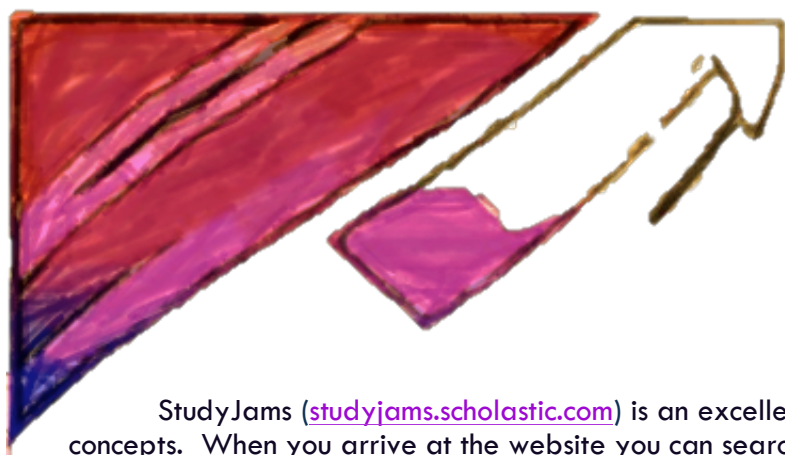
One of the challenges of using Google Docs with several classes is, managing all those documents can be overwhelming. An alternative is to set up an "Inbox". A Google Form can be used to collect assignments.

1. Click on **Create > Form**
2. Make your form. Include the fields – *Name, Class Period, Assignment Title, Link to Assignment, & Additional Information.*
3. Once you are done, copy the website address at the bottom of the page in the black bar.
4. Publish the website address so students have access to it. For example, put it on your Fusion page.
5. When it's time to turn in an assignment, like a Google Document, students complete your simple form & submit the link to their paper.
6. The information submitted by students automatically fills in a Google Spreadsheet connected with your form. Click on the link the student provided to view their document.



On the student side, students will need to change their share settings.

1. Students will need to click on **Share**.
2. They will need to change who has access to the document. **Change Private to People at PCS with the Link & click on Save.**
3. Students then need to copy the URL for the document, & paste it in your form for you to access.



StudyJams
Teacher Guest Post
by Brianna Clark, 3rd Grade

StudyJams (studyjams.scholastic.com) is an excellent website that helps reinforce math & science concepts. When you arrive at the website you can search the concept that you are teaching & will find several "study jams" related to that concept. Each study jam is either a video, step-by-step tutorial of a problem related to that concept, or a slideshow. When you finish with the video, step-by-step tutorial, or slideshow, your students will be able to try to solve a problem on their own, using the steps they were shown. There is also a *test yourself* button, that asks the students about 10 questions about what they just learned. Some of them even have a sing along that sings about the concept! This website can be used as an introduction to a topic or a review. Several third grade teachers like to use this website to give our students more practice & build on their knowledge.



ALL Learners

LetterSchool & Little Puzzles Toys

Early Childhood Learners – LETTERSCHOOL



A letter-writing app with cool animations, & a 3-step method to learning to write letters – tap, trace, & write. There is even some phonics & counting added to the mix. There is a font option that includes Handwriting Without Tears font!! I have been using this app with several of my students & they all really enjoy it. The app cost \$2.99, but there is a free version, which only offers a few letters.

SPED Learners – LITTLE PUZZLES TOYS

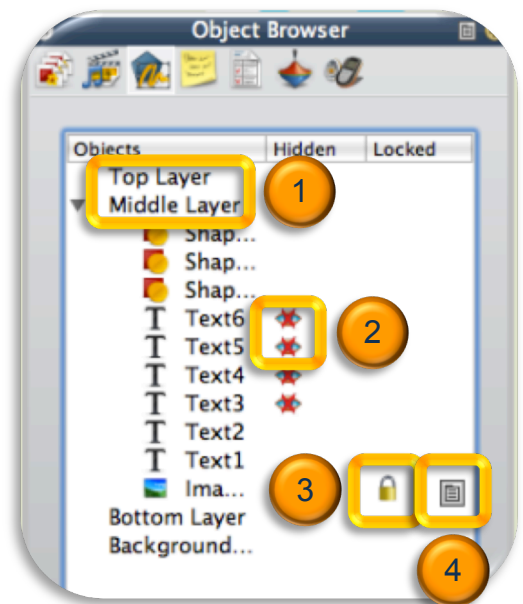


From the same developers of Little Writer, **Little Puzzles Toys** helps students to develop critical thinking & mental reasoning skills. An interactive game that allows students to choose the number of puzzle pieces (from 4 to 36) & select the level of difficulty. Add audio & visual hints, & best of all students can add their own images to create their own puzzle.

ActivInspire – Object Browser

The Object Browser helps with organizing your flipchart. It shows which objects are on which layer of your flipchart. Remember, the object closer to the top in the Object Browser will cover anything below it.

1. Click & drag to move items from 1 layer to another.
2. This item is hidden & can't be seen on the page, which is an action.
3. This item is locked & can't be moved unless you are clicked on Design Mode.
4. Object Pop-up Menu



Wikipedia Book Creator



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Wikipedia is a great source of information, especially the voluminous amount of references listed at the bottom of the articles. A problem with Wikipedia is that you have to have Internet access to read any of the articles. Wikipedia has a work around to solve this problem, the Wikipedia Book Creator. This feature allows you to select one or more pages from the online encyclopedia, & turn them into PDF eBook format that you can now read offline. Best of all, if you would like to make changes to the pages you used, you can download the eBook in the OpenDocument Text format.

1. Enable the "Book Creator" tool. On the left side of any article, under the **Print/export**, just click on **Create a book**. Select **Start book creator**.
2. Collect articles. Once you find an article to add to your eBook, select **Add this page to you book**. If you are looking for more pages, select **Suggest pages**.
3. Review your book. Enter the title, subtitle, create chapters, sort & remove articles.
4. Download or order a printed book. Select the format & download your new eBook.

Apps

K¹² Money, Bookworm, & VoiceThread

Elementary – K¹² MONEY



K¹²'s mission is to provide students with meaningful curriculum tools. They currently have 3 FREE money apps – **Counting Coins**, **Counting Coins & Bills**, & **K¹² Money**.

They all feature 4 or 5 fun activities to engage students in – Counting Coins: *Match the Value*, *Make the Total*, *How Many Cents?*, & *Show Values*. Counting Coins & Bills &

K¹² Money: *Counting Money*, *Show Me the Money*, *Making Change*, *Matching Amounts*, & *Show Values*.

Depending on the app students can explore coins, bills, & practice making change up to \$99.

Middle School – BOOKWORM



From the makers of Bejeweled, PopCap Games brings another one of their hits to the App Store...Bookworm. Think quickly & link letter tiles left, right, up, & down to form words. The bigger the word, the better the bonus. Be sure to keep an eye out for the burning letters as they burn away the letters below them.

High School – VOICETHREAD



Create & share conversations around documents, snapshots, diagram, & videos. Talk, type, & draw on the screen while recording. Capture your presence, not just your voice. VoiceThread is a powerful tool for storytelling & collaboration with its use of audio commentary & visual media. Join the conversation with this app or at www.voicethread.com.